instructions to all local bodies/concerned agencies for taking strict action against defaulters as per the relevant laws.

Legislation to organise State Housing Boards

3098. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans for enacting special legislations to organise the State Housing Boards and strengthen the Cooperative Housing Movement in the country;

(b) if so, what are its broad features and by when such enactments would be made effective;

(c) whether Government would ensure that the requirement of one dwelling unit for a family, which is one of the basic ingredient of "Roti, Kapda Aur Makan" would be taken care of, so that even a poor can enjoy the civic environment and amenities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government, as an enabler is considering the need to reorganise the housing agencies in the country and also the need for new Housing Board Acts. The proposed Acts should combine the advantages that are available to a corporatised body such as flexibility and speed in decision making, with the advantages that are inherent in the agency enjoying sovereign powers of the State, such as land acquisition and recovery of the dues as area of land revenue. As the proposed Act will be within the purview of States. Government of India will play a facilitating role only. It may not be possible to provide a time frame for the enactment of the proposed Act.

(c) and (d) The National Housing and Habitat Policy 1998, envisages provision of shelter and basic amenities to all through increased supply of developed land, promotion of cost-effective building materials, fiscal concessions for investment in housing, removal of legal / regulatory constraints and easier access to housing finance. The National Agenda for Governance envisages construction of an additional 2 million dwelling units primarily for weaker section every year. Out of this, 7 lakh units will be in urban areas and rest 13 lakh in rural Areas. Since housing is a State Subject, actual implementation of the plan lies with the State Governments.

Participation of NRIs in Housing Sector

3099. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians have been allowed to enter into housing sector in the country;

(b) if so, since when and whether 100 per cent foreign direct investment is permitted;

(c) if not, upto what percentage;

(d) the response of NRI's thereto; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) As per the existing scheme, Non-Residents of India nationality/origin and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) predominantly owned by Non-Residents of Indian nationality/origin having atleast 60% of beneficial interest in such bodies are allowed to invest in housing and real estate development sector.

(b) The Scheme is in operation since 1993. At present 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) is not permitted in this sector.

(c) As at (a) above.

(d) and (e) As per the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India since inception of the Scheme till April 2000 a total sum of Rs. 562.80 crores have been invested by the Non-Residents of Indian nationality/origin/Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) in the equity of Indian/joint venture companies engaged in housing and real estate development activities as envisaged in the Scheme.

Water supply to Nanakpura

3100. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Nanakpura, Delhi particularly in the H-Block water supplied for drinking is all spoilt and full of foul smell;

(b) if so, what is the cause of it and who are responsible for this; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir. Delhi Jal Board has reported that 20 samples of water from different houses of 'H' Block Nanakpura were lifted and test results have shown adequate free residual chlorine indicating potability of water. Three samples were tested for all parameters ensuring that the quality of water was good.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.